

# The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department

## Community helps with recruit training

Like the thousands of KCPD recruits who have gone before them, the new officers who graduated with the 158<sup>th</sup> Entrant Officer Class on Dec. 29 first underwent testing – often referred to as “situationals” – on a number of scenarios to see whether they were ready to tackle real-life police work. Thanks to a church and a coffee shop, the scenarios took on a much greater sense of authenticity.

Before recruits can graduate and become fully certified to carry out their sworn duties as a police officer, they must participate in and pass a week-long evaluation period, answering simulated calls for service based on real-life situations. They must demonstrate their understanding of the last seven months of instruction.

Oftentimes, the locations of these calls for service are at a police facility. But the support of the community in Kansas City has made it possible for recruits to answer calls at certain businesses and organizations, such as the City Market Coffee House and First Regular Baptist Church.

Captain Tim Riepe said First Regular Baptist Church, located at 20<sup>th</sup> and Hardesty, was the same place they used for patrol integration exercises and situational training when he was an instructor in 2001. Academy staff and recruits have continued to use the church ever since. The department presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Pastor Webster Frowner in March of this year for all the help he and his congregation have given in training KCPD recruits throughout the years.

Nikole Ammer, owner of City Market Coffee House, says she has always been a supporter of the police department and is willing to help in any way she can. She has opened her doors for recruits to practice service calls at her shop after hours.



**Officer Kimberly Shaw-Ellis, an instructor at the Academy, thanked City Market Coffee Owner Nikole Ammer, center, and employee Hannah Pint for allowing recruits to undergo training and testing at their business.**

“I think it’s important the community bonds together with the department and supports the people that give their lives for us,” she said.

During the week-long training scenarios, recruits answer approximately 20 calls ranging anywhere from suicidal people to rescuing a party down. Recruits are tested on their communication, officer safety and procedural knowledge.

“The planning that goes into this training is extensive,” said Captain Stephenie Price, Commander of the Training Unit.

Approximately 60 actors, 15 car riders with patrol vehicles, a dispatcher, safety officers and instructional evaluators, along with several outside entities, are needed to fully assess the recruits’

knowledge.

The first two nights of evaluations, the recruit officers answer calls driving in the city limits of Kansas City, possibly stopping at City Market Coffee House and First Regular Baptist Church.

Using these locations has allowed recruits to train in geography, building checks, shooting calls, alarm calls, and with the nursery at the church: infant CPR calls.

“These businesses have played a vital role in helping to train hundreds of police recruits,” Price said.

“It is our pleasure,” Ammer said. “It is the least we can do to support the people that are so loving and giving to stand up and protect our community. We appreciate all that you do!”

City Market Coffee House is located at 305 Main Street and offers a discount to all first responders.

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# Social worker tackles CPD youth issues

An ongoing family feud among residents of the Central Patrol Division has involved shots fired and a great deal of law enforcement resources. When a sergeant went to one of the family's homes to try to talk to them about what could be done, they gave him the cold shoulder. When Gina English, the new social services coordinator assigned to Center Zone, showed up, they invited her in and talked with her about their issues for an hour and a half. Now they're working on possible solutions.

Central Patrol Commander Major Rick Smith said that's one of the reasons English is such a valuable resource to police: her ability to make connections and get resources to people who wouldn't listen to someone in uniform. English started her position at CPD on Dec. 1. A temporary city funding source is paying for the spot for nine months, but Major Smith said they're hoping to find a grant or other funding source to make it permanent.

As far as anyone can recall, this is the first time a social worker has been assigned directly to a patrol element at KCPD. English worked in social services at the Kansas City No Violence Alliance before coming to CPD.

"Social services and law enforcement go hand-in-hand," she said. "I look at it like this:

law enforcement tends to be the very first responder on social service issues."

Unfortunately, police can't intervene in many situations because they are not law enforcement issues, she and Major Smith said. Nor do officers have the time, resources, expertise or connections to help individuals work toward needed lifestyle changes. Gina English does.

Her focus is proactive work with youth she calls "not at-risk, but disconnected." Major Smith said the need for a patrol-level social worker arose from discussions about what to do regarding several youth-centered issues in Center Zone, such as large disturbances on the Country Club Plaza and those known to be involved in lower-level crimes like graffiti.

"What I'm trying to focus on is really about prevention," English said. "... Being at NoVA really opened my eyes to what Kansas City's urban-core young people are dealing with, what they see as their future. They don't feel like they have the support, resources or tools to get it. If someone like me in this position can help reconnect those youth to feeling like they have a brighter future, that they can make a difference and that they do matter, and we can do it in partner-

ship with police, it changes their entire perception and culture."

Major Smith said English was an exceptional candidate for the job because of her work at NoVA and long list of connections and resources. He said she's also excellent at helping youth focus their time and talents on productive endeavors instead of negative behaviors.

"She knows all the things she can help a family in need with, and she can do it very quickly," Smith said.

English is assigned to the Central Patrol Impact Squad and attends CPD's weekly crime meetings. If officers bring up a problem family, she gets to work. She's working with one family with more than 20 recent calls for service to their address. Shots have been fired. The main problem has been frequent disturbances involving youth. English learned the youth often are unsupervised because their mother is

working two jobs trying to make ends meet. The home had no furniture, and the mother feared that her 12-year-old, in particular, was beginning to think his actions did not have consequences. English worked to get two truck-loads of furniture delivered to the family's home. This built a bridge of trust. Now she has connected the 12-year-old with the OK Program, a mentoring program for African American boys and teens where many African-



**When Officer Rich Salzman, right, and others at the Westside Community Action Network Center ended up short of gifts for 40 teenagers for the annual Westside Community Christmas Party, he reached out to new Central Patrol Social Services Coordinator Gina English, left. She helped police secure 40 gift bags with several presents each from the Fox 4 Love Fund, which she and Officer Salzman picked up Dec. 9. Every teen received a well-stocked gift bag at the party. English is the first social worker assigned to a KCPD patrol element.**

American KCPD officers serve as volunteer mentors. She's working with the mother to find one better-paying job instead of two lower-paying ones. And she's working to get the family moved to a different neighborhood, away from some other nearby residents with whom disputes often arise. All these efforts will undoubtedly have a law enforcement effect (fewer calls for service, prevention of possible violent acts and more), but it's something law enforcement couldn't do.

"Everything is already there," English said. "It's just a matter of having one front-line person to put it all together."

English said she knows she needs to earn the trust of officers as well as the members of the public, and she doesn't intend to tell police how to do their job.

"I'm here to be a support," she said. "Not enough of the community recognizes law enforcement wants what's best for everyone. They want everyone to be successful because then the whole community is safer. ... Law enforcement's job is to investigate crime. My job is to investigate resources to connect people to what they need so they can be empowered."



## KCK Police give KCPD officers highest award



**T**wo Kansas City Missouri Police officers received the highest award possible – the Award for Valor - from the neighboring Kansas City Kansas Police Department for their actions in stopping a man who killed a KCK officer in May 2016.

In a ceremony November 3, Sergeant Randal Anderson and Officer Jonathan Munyan (pictured above, second and third from left) received the award alongside several Kansas City, Kan., first responders.

On May 9, KCK Detective Brad Lancaster went to a suspicious person call near Hollywood Casino. As Detective Lancaster approached, the suspect fled on foot. When Detective Lancaster caught up to him, the suspect shot Detective Lancaster multiple times and stole his police vehicle. Two KCK officers exchanged gunfire with the suspect, but he got away.

The suspect continued his crime spree after fleeing the KCK officers, carjacking and shooting at other officers and citizens in multiple cities. He ultimately came to Kansas City, Mo., when Sgt. Anderson and Officer Munyan intervened. Sergeant Anderson spotted the suspect's car on 71 Highway and pursued it until the driver crashed into a bridge pillar. Officer Munyan arrived and saw the suspect firing at Sgt. Anderson, other officers, and citizens. From more than 100 yards away, Officer Munyan fired one shot from his patrol rifle, incapacitating the suspect and ending his bi-state crime spree. The suspect survived and is awaiting trial, where he faces the death penalty.

## Royals Charities grant will go to new locker rooms at Police Athletic League



**R**oyals Charities presented a large donation to the Kansas City Police Athletic League (PAL) on Dec. 6 to renovate locker room and laundry facilities at a center used by hundreds of urban-core youth.

As part of their Week of Giving, Royals Charities staff came to the PAL Center at 1801 White Ave. for a tour and basketball scrimmage. They presented a check for \$40,000 to renovate the facility's locker rooms, and the Royals Alumni Foundation presented a \$5,000 check to renovate a laundry room.

The PAL Center has been under renovation for about the last five years to better serve the more than 300 urban-core youth who use it throughout the year. It just got a new gym floor thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Hall Family Foundation. KCPD Captain Thad Seever said the locker room renovation will meet a need most people don't think about.

"Many of these kids don't have the utilities in place or supplies at home to get clean," Captain Seever said. "The whole purpose of this is to give them a place to come in and privately take a shower and clean up."

Many of the youth PAL serves also receive public assistance to obtain food, but that doesn't cover toiletries, so several don't have needed personal hygiene products. To complement the new locker room facilities, PAL will provide shampoo, soap and even clean clothes, if needed. The laundry room will help provide clean towels and laundry for PAL youth.

The PAL Center currently has locker rooms, but they are dark, lack privacy and go unused, Captain Seever said. The KCPD officers assigned to PAL and the PAL Board wanted to provide a welcoming and private space with individual lockers and private shower areas for the 8- to 18-year-old youth who use the center. That dream is becoming a reality thanks to Royals Charities and the Royals Alumni Association.

## Upcoming Events

January 10  
**Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting**

January 12  
**25-Year Ring Ceremony**

January 17  
**Mobile Mammography at  
East Patrol Division**

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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

#### ***Meritorious Service Award***

Major Karl Oakman  
Administrative Supervisor Renee  
Gatewood  
Retired Director Douglas Weishar  
Retired Supervisor Barbara Stuart

#### ***Certificate of Commendation***

Sergeant Marvin Nix  
Officer Shantasa Fischer  
Officer Zakary Glidewell  
Officer Jachin Gordon  
Officer John Matthews  
Officer Kelsie McLees  
Officer James Peeler  
Officer Robert Riley

#### ***Distinguished Service Medal***

Master Patrol Officer Kevin Colmar

### Retirements

Deputy Chief Randall Hundley  
Major Joseph McHale  
Major John Mueller  
Major Eric Winebrenner  
Office of Community Complaints  
Executive Director Pearl Fain

Captain Mark Hatcher  
Captain Michael Perne  
Captain Mark Terman  
Sergeant Shane Hurst  
Sergeant Ronald Podraza  
Master Police Officer Richard  
Cartwright  
Master Police Officer Daniel Meyer  
Detective Charles Bax, Jr.  
Detective Jeanelle Ceseña  
Detective William Martin III  
Detective Stephen Shaffer  
Detective John Thompson  
Officer James Kreicbergs  
Officer Cord Laws  
Officer Walton Mulloy  
Officer William Witcig  
Officer Josephine Woods  
Administrative Assistant Martha  
Carlson  
Analyst Betty Capps  
Analyst Sandra Landau  
Security Guard William Palmer